

LEAVING A GREAT PARIS ART SCHOOL.

SESSION OF A NUMBER OF DISSATISFIED STUDENTS FROM THE ECOLE DES BEAUX-ARTS.

Paris, Jan. 10.—A great deal of dissatisfaction has long been felt by art students in Paris at the manner in which the Ecole des Beaux-Arts is conducted. This school is liberally endowed, and, like many another independent institution, it has become autocratic and not progressive enough to suit the tastes and needs of the students who flock to Paris from all parts of the world. This discontent has been daily growing more intense until it resulted, a few days ago, in the secession of some twenty-five of the most promising pupils in the school.

"We have had enough," said one of the malcontents, "of Egyptian subjects, enough of Narcissus, his antique shoulders in the fountain, and enough of Truth, with Venetian glass in her hand, seeking realism in the nude. We have had enough also of the superannuated conventionalities which for so many generations have been inculcated in the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. We decided to look around us and select a painter whose works embody those qualifications which we seek, who would give us the benefit of his counsel and teach us his art. With this end in view some twenty-five of our students left the school and have established a liberal academy of art in one of the suburbs of Paris. We have rented a large studio in the Rue Campagne-Première, and have furnished it with all the paraphernalia belonging to a well-equipped studio. It is less than a month since we resolved to leave the school, notwithstanding the pecuniary advantages offered at the Government studios, or the consequences which that determination will have upon some of us who stand on the best of terms with our old professors, or upon those whose expenses are paid by their native villages. Our resolution was also the result of a desire on our part to free ourselves from some of the worn-out doctrines taught at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, as well as the many petty restrictions and obligations to which the students are subjected.

"We have seen the school of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts as it stands, who is willing to come before us and tell us what we can do and give us the benefit of his instruction and criticism. He is a painter whom we know and whose talents we admire. Now we have a professor of our own choosing and a studio for our exclusive use. There is no room for us in the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, nor are we called upon to put up with the inconveniences due to too large a number of students working from the same model. We have renounced, in general, the study of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. We do not exact an examination of those who wish to join us, nor do we give medals or recompense of any sort. All that we permit ourselves will be the showing each year, in a public exhibition, the results of our studies."

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